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Program Overview

Background
BICB was established in 2007 as a result of legislative funding and support driven by the recommendations of the Governor of Minnesota's appointed Rochester Higher Education Development Committee (RHEDC). The committee recommended the collaborative development of an institution that focuses on health science, bioscience, engineering, and technology. This institution is the University of Minnesota Rochester.

Vision
The vision of the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (BICB) program to establish world-class academic and research programs at the University of Minnesota Rochester by leveraging the University of Minnesota’s academic and research capabilities in partnership with Mayo Clinic, Hormel Institute, IBM, National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), the Brain Sciences Center and other industry leaders. The goal is to advance informatics and computation that provide applications to economic activities via innovation, translational research, and clinical experiences to support a strong life science industry in Minnesota.

Mission
The mission of the Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (BICB) graduate program is to provide interdisciplinary education in the area of bioinformatics and computational biology at the interface of quantitative sciences, medicine, and biology. The graduate program trains graduate students in the development and applications of computational methods and to work in interdisciplinary teams of life scientists and computational scientists. The program offers industrial and clinical internships and training in business leadership, technology management, and ethics to prepare students for the workplace. Faculty provide education through formal coursework, research seminars, and one-on-one advising. In addition, the program provides a mentoring program for students and junior faculty that will serve as a model for interdisciplinary graduate education.

Students are in residence on either the Rochester campus or the Twin Cities campus. The program is suitable for full-time and part-time students who are looking for:

- Top-ranked faculty from eight world-class institutions
- State-of-the-art knowledge in a fast-growing field
- Integrated education in the life and computational/mathematical sciences
- Collaborative research opportunities
- Professional development
- World-class supercomputing resources
- Semi-annual research symposia
Faculty and Staff Directory

Directors of Graduate Studies

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Alternate representative: Mattea Allert

BICB Faculty
The BICB graduate faculty includes researchers from the University of Minnesota Twin Cities, the University of Minnesota Rochester, the Hormel Institute, the Mayo Clinic, IBM, National Marrow Donor Program (NMDP), and the Brain Sciences Center. There are currently 153 graduate faculty within the BICB graduate program. A complete listing of our graduate faculty can be found here. A brief description of their research can be found here.
BICB New Student Checklist
We have put together a checklist for all incoming MS and PhD students. It has helpful information about setting up your email, how to register for classes, and relocation to the Twin Cities.

Degree Programs
The Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (BICB) graduate program is an interdisciplinary, all-University graduate program. The administrative home of the program is the University of Minnesota Rochester. The College of Science and Engineering on the Twin Cities campus is the academic home of the program. The program offers the Ph.D., Master of Science (Thesis-based Plan A and Capstone Project-based Plan B) degrees and a Minor. Our goal is to provide a full suite of academic offerings and research opportunities in this fast-growing field. Graduates will leave their program with the skills and knowledge necessary to lead the way to tomorrow’s tools for the quantitative analysis of biological and clinical data.

Doctor of Philosophy Degree Program

The PhD in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology is a degree designed for students seeking the highest level of advanced research training in the area of bioinformatics and computational biology. PhD students are required to develop and complete an original research project of scientific significance as part of their doctoral thesis, which is reported in peer-reviewed scientific literature. PhD students are trained to develop a high level of core knowledge and technical expertise within their chosen field as well as critical thinking, analysis, and scientific communication skills. At the time of completion, students are expected to have the ability to conduct research independently, and should be capable of designing, performing and leading research projects and teams in an industry, academic or government research setting.

Requirements for the BICB Doctoral Degree (Ph.D.) Program

The degree completion steps checklist details the administrative steps that must be completed to be eligible for graduation. Before you contact the Graduate School for specific questions, contact the graduate program coordinator.

The time limit for earning a Ph.D. degree is eight calendar years after initial enrollment in the graduate program. Students who are unable to complete the program within this timeframe may petition for an extension of up to 24 months.

Course Requirements
The BICB program is designed to allow for maximum flexibility. You and your adviser will determine the course work you will need to take to gain competency
in your specialty. All PhD students are required to complete 31 course credits and 24 doctoral thesis credits that include the following required BICB courses:

- BICB 8510 Computation and Biology (2 credits, two semesters)
- BICB 8930 Journal Club (1 credit, three semesters)
- BICB 8920 Colloquium (1 credit, three semesters)
- BICB 8401 Ethics (1 credit, one semester)
- BICB 8970 Entrepreneurship and Leadership (1 credit, one semester)
- BICB 8932 Proposal Writing Seminar (1 credit, one semester)

The requirements for BICB 8510 and BICB 8932 may be waived in consultation with the DGS for students with sufficient research experience and/or advanced proposal writing skills. However, in the case that certain course requirements are waived, all PhD students must fulfill a minimum of 24 total course credits.

Ph.D. students are required to gain competency in Core Areas 1, 2, and 3 (total 9 credits) and at least one of Elective Areas 4-13 (at least 9 credits).

Core areas:
1. Biochemistry, genetics, molecular cell biology and physiology
2. Mathematics, biostatistics and statistics
3. Computer science, informatics, computational biology and system biology

Elective areas:
4. Genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, microbiome
5. Plant science, animal science, veterinary medicine, biomedical science
6. Biophysics, structural biology, chemical biology, protein engineering, spectroscopy
7. Computational chemistry, cheminformatics, medicinal chemistry and drug design
8. Databases, data analytics, data mining, artificial intelligence and machine learning
9. Data management, data modeling, algorithms and optimization
10. Big data analytics, distributed systems, parallel computing, cloud computing
11. Computer vision, imaging analysis, virtual reality, signal processing and neural networks
12. Clinical and translational sciences
13. Health informatics, electronic medical records, and natural language processing
BICB courses not used to satisfy the major credit requirement may be applied as electives.

This program requires a minimum GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) for courses included on any official Ph.D. degree program form. Courses with grades of A, B, C (including C-), and S may be included in the official graduate degree plan, but grades of S are not calculated in the GPA. All Ph.D. Students are required to register for 24 thesis credits (BICB 8888); these registrations are not graded and therefore cannot be used to meet course credit requirements.

There is a limit of one 4-credit or less 4xxx level course counted in the total course credits. At least 2/3 of the total number of course credits included in any degree program of a Ph.D. graduate student must be taken A-F. The rest can be taken as pass/fail.

Transfer credits are allowed. Click here for more information regarding transferring courses from other programs.

Students may choose a Minor and the choice of courses must satisfy the Minor requirements. Graduate credits applied toward a minor field cannot also be applied toward another minor field. Courses that are used to satisfy course requirements in the Core Areas 1-3 of the interdisciplinary program cannot simultaneously be used to satisfy credit requirements for a Minor. A maximum of 6 course credits in the Elective courses may be applied towards a Minor and thus count toward satisfying both the Elective and the Minor requirements.

**Graduate Degree Plan and GPAS**

Graduate education policy requires that every graduate student file a Graduate Degree Plan (GDP) or complete the GPAS audit for each degree they are pursuing. All students admitted Fall 2020 or later must complete the online GPAS audit. Students admitted before Fall 2020 will complete the paper GDP.

**Paper GDP**

The Graduate Degree Plan must be submitted and approved before a student can submit their WPE and is typically completed prior to the student's last semester in which regular coursework is taken. On the graduate degree plan the student must list:

- Complete coursework.
● Projected coursework (courses the student plans to take to complete their degree).
● Transfer coursework as approved by the director of graduate studies and/or your academic advisor.

The Graduate Degree Plan is a list of coursework that you submit to the Graduate School as the basis for your degree. It may not contain all courses and seminars you complete during the course of your degree but must contain all required courses and seminars. List only graduate level courses (one 4000 level course is permitted). At least 12 of the required 31 graduate course credits must be earned while enrolled as a registered University of Minnesota Graduate School student. Graduate Education policy requires that a minimum of 2/3 of the course credits included in the degree plan are taken A/F and that students should maintain an overall GPA of 3.000 for courses included on the degree plan at the time of degree clearance. You must file your degree program at least one semester prior to taking your preliminary oral exam. The GDP Form is available online here. Once the degree program is approved, any changes must be petitioned to the Graduate School by submitting a Petition Form.

GPAS
The Graduate Planning & Audit System (GPAS) allows graduate and professional students to plan future coursework and view student degree progress. GPAS has two different functions: a planner and the degree progress audit. The planner is used for future coursework students plan to take. This is an optional feature that is not required for BICB students to complete. The degree progress audit automatically tracks all completed courses and applies them to the appropriate requirements. Students should review and make sure all requirements are met before submitting their GPAS.

Once all courses have been completed students must submit their GPAS audit for approval. Once approved students can then proceed with their written and oral preliminary exam. For more information about the GPAS audit and further resources visit OneStop’s GPAS website.

Internship requirement
Ph.D. students are required to complete a total of 120 hours of industrial or clinical internships or lab rotation(s) (collectively called internships). Often, internships consist of observing experiments or processes in a lab that produces the data for the student's research. An internship may also include readings of experimentally focused journal articles or other sources to gain a better understanding of the data. The internship is expected to be completed within the
first two years and no later than by the end of the third year. If a student participates in an internship experience during the semester, they may sign up for BICB 8960 Internship Course (1 credit is equivalent to about 40 hours of participation per semester). Students are not required to register for internships but their participation will be tracked by the program. Internships can be at any of the participating institutions or institutions/organizations that are approved by the graduate program. Approved organizations include the University of Minnesota, Mayo Clinic, IBM, NMDP, and others with prior approval. Discuss a plan for your internship with your research advisor and the DGSs to identify an appropriate experience. The internship requirement can be petioned in cases of significant relevant prior experience. More information on finding internship opportunities off campus can be found on Gold Pass powered by Handshake.

Examinations
The preliminary written examination committee for the preliminary written exam of a Ph.D. graduate student consists of three faculty members and will be chosen by the DGS/Associate DGS. It will not include the advisor/co-advisor. Two committee members are chosen from the student’s preliminary oral exam committee (see below) and the third is chosen from amongst the remaining BICB faculty.

The preliminary oral examination committee for the preliminary oral exam of a Ph.D. graduate student consists of at least four members, at least three are BICB graduate faculty from at least two different budgetary units, two of who must be tenured or tenure-track faculty from the University of Minnesota, with at least one holding tenure at the time of the exam. If the student has a Minor, one member must represent the student’s Minor. If the student does not have a Minor, the fourth member may be from the BICB graduate faculty. The advisor/co-advisor will be members of the preliminary oral examination committee. The advisor or, if the student has co-advisors, one of the co-advisors will chair the committee.

Students should assign members to the preliminary oral exam committee at least one month prior to submitting your preliminary written exam to the program (two members of your preliminary oral exam committee will also review your preliminary written exam).

The final oral examining committee for the defense of a Ph.D. thesis consists of at least four members, at least three are BICB graduate faculty from at least two different budgetary units, and, if the student has a Minor, one member must represent the student’s Minor. If the student does not have a Minor, the fourth member may be from the BICB graduate faculty. The advisor/co-advisor will be
members of the final oral examination committee but will not chair the committee. This committee may be different from the preliminary oral examination committee.

Adding External Members to an Examining Committee

- The graduate student initiates the process by informing the DGS that s/he would like to add an external member to the committee.
- The DGS solicits the CV from the suggested member and verifies with the student's adviser that the suggested member is appropriate for the committee and approved by the adviser.
- The DGS checks whether the suggested member has the appropriate credentials, which typically is a Ph.D. in a field appropriate to the student's research.
- The DGS circulates the CV among BICB graduate faculty to solicit comments within a fixed period (two weeks). If nobody voices any concerns about the suggested member being a member of an examining committee, the DGS will initiate the process of adding the member to the committee. If serious concerns by other faculty members are voiced, i.e., if faculty have reasons to believe that the academic credentials of the suggested external member are not at the level expected of a member of a BICB examining committee, the DGS will contact the student's adviser to discuss the concerns. If the concerns cannot be resolved through discussions, the DGS will ask the adviser to suggest a different committee member.

Being an external member of an examining committee does not confer any rights other than participating in that committee. i.e., the external member does not become a permanent member of the BICB graduate faculty. Once the student graduates, the external member no longer has a relationship with the program. More information about committees and external members can be found on the [OneStop](#) website.

Preliminary Written Exam

Ph.D. students will write a research proposal on their thesis research to satisfy the preliminary written exam. Research proposals are expected to be formatted as an NIH or NSF proposal (max. 12 pg. limit) and should include 1) a critical review of current literature and appropriate background information for the student’s research area, 2) a hypothesis-driven thesis research plan with specific objectives, aims and research strategy, 3) scientific significance and impact of the proposed research, and 4) preliminary results on their project. The scope of the proposal should be original and accomplishable by a PhD student within a reasonable time.
period of study. Examples of written exams from previous BICB PhD students and the reviewer form for the exam can be found here. PhD students are required to take BICB 8932, which covers the format of this exam in detail and prepares students for writing their exams (typically taken during the Spring of their second year).

Note that students are not expected to have completed a large portion of their research aims at the time they submit their research proposal for the prelim written exam. Students should begin work on at least one aim of their research proposal at the time of submission, and are encouraged to describe this progress in the written proposal. Preliminary data and/or results can help to strengthen any research proposal and can also help a student demonstrate that they have established a solid foundation for future research.

The exam will be reviewed by three members of the graduate faculty, at most two of the reviewers may come from the preliminary oral examining committee with the third reviewer selected by the DGS. An advisor or co-advisor may not serve as a reviewer. Each reviewer must assign one of the following three grades: Pass, Conditional Pass, and Fail in the research proposal evaluation form. The student fails the exam if at least two of the reviewers grade the exam as Fail. The student passes the exam if at least two reviewers grade the exam as Pass. In all other cases, the student conditionally passes the exam.

CONDITIONAL PASS FOR THE PRELIMINARY WRITTEN EXAM: The student is asked to rewrite the proposal within six weeks. (See below for rules on rewriting the preliminary written exam.)

FAIL FOR THE PRELIMINARY WRITTEN EXAM: The DGS must call a meeting of the reviewers and the preliminary oral examining committee [including the advisor(s)] to determine by majority vote whether (i) the student should be asked to re-write the proposal (see below for rules on rewriting the preliminary written exam), (ii) the student should be switched to the Master's program (Plan A or B), or (iii) the student should be terminated. If the student is allowed to re-write the proposal, the procedure is identical to a conditional pass and the student shall be given six weeks to resubmit the rewritten proposal.

REWITING THE PRELIMINARY WRITTEN EXAM: The reviewers are asked to review the rewritten proposal and to determine whether the rewritten proposal is satisfactory. (Different reviewers may be chosen for the review of the re-written proposal, but at most two of the reviewers may come from the preliminary oral examining committee.) If the reviewers unanimously recommend
passing the student, the student passes. Otherwise, the DGS must call a meeting of the reviewers and the preliminary oral examining committee (including the advisor) to determine by majority vote whether (i) the student should be allowed to re-write the proposal for a second time, or (ii) the student should be switched to the Master's program (Plan A or B), or (iii) the student should be terminated. If the student is allowed to re-write the proposal for a second time, the student shall be given six weeks to resubmit the re-written proposal.

The number of times a proposal can be re-written is limited to two. If the reviewers do not agree to unanimously PASS the student after the student had a chance to rewrite the proposal twice, the DGS must call a meeting of the reviewers and the preliminary oral examining committee (including the advisor) to determine by majority vote whether the student should be switched to the Master's program (Plan A or B) or terminated.

When the DGS calls a meeting of the reviewers and the preliminary oral examining committee [including the advisor(s)], both the DGS and the advisor are eligible to vote. The Associate DGS may substitute for the DGS. Both the DGS and the Associate DGS may be present at the meeting but only one of the two has a vote.

**Preliminary Oral Exam**

After successful completion of the preliminary written exam, the student can take the preliminary oral exam. The student is responsible for initiating the formation of, assigning, and updating the preliminary oral examination committee. This is done electronically by using the following form: [Assign/Update Preliminary Oral Examining Committee](#). Once a date for the preliminary oral exam is set and no later than one week prior to the examination, the student must schedule the preliminary oral examination with the Graduate School [online](#). Note that the degree program form must have been approved and you must hold active status at the time of the examination.

The preliminary oral exam consists of a pre-thesis seminar followed by an examination. The pre-thesis seminar is public, and you must submit the title of your presentation, abstract, a meeting location, and a Zoom link for remote viewing at least one week prior to the exam to the program assistant. Email the information to [bicb@umn.edu](mailto:bicb@umn.edu), who will announce the presentation to the BICB faculty and students. The examination that follows the pre-thesis seminar is not public.
Final Oral Exam
Before the student can take the final oral exam, each designated reviewer must complete the Reviewer’s Report form to certify that the dissertation is ready for defense. Reviewers must be given at least 14 days to review the thesis. A minimum of 2 major field reviewers and 1 outside reviewer are required. Advisor(s) must serve as reviewers.

The doctoral final examination consists of a public defense of the dissertation followed by a closed session open only to the doctoral candidate and the doctoral final examination committee. Notify the Graduate School at least one week in advance of the date of your doctoral final exam. You must submit the title of your thesis, abstract, a meeting location, and a Zoom link for remote viewing at least one week prior to the exam to the program assistant. Email the information to bicb@umn.edu, who will announce the presentation to the BICB faculty and students. To be recommended for the award of the doctoral degree, all committee members, or all committee members except one, must certify that the student passed the doctoral final oral examination. Students are not allowed to retake the final oral examination.

Submit the Doctoral Final Exam Report no later than the last business day of the anticipated month of graduation. Submit your dissertation by the last business day of the anticipated month of graduation. Consult OneStop for formatting guidelines.

Requirements for Peer-reviewed Publications
BICB PhD students are required to publish at least one peer-reviewed, first or co-first author journal paper before their final thesis defense. Publishing practices and venues vary widely across the field of computational biology. In some areas, a high-performing PhD student may be expected to have co-authored five or more publications by the time of graduation, while in other areas, one or two co-authored publications is reasonable. Due to this high variation across the field, the PhD committee plays an important role in defining the minimum expectations of thesis-related publications for the completion of the degree. Students should meet annually with their PhD committee with research progress updates and clarify specific expectations on publications at least one year before planning their thesis defense. PhD committees may set reasonable publication requirements consistent with their subfield of computational biology. In all cases, BICB PhD students must publish a minimum of one peer-reviewed first- or co-first author journal paper before their final thesis defense.
Master of Science Degree Program

The MS in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology is designed for students interested in gaining expertise in developing and applying computational approaches to problems in the life sciences or medicine. At the time of completion, MS students are expected to possess technical knowledge within their chosen field, conduct routine research and data analyses, and perform scientific reporting and review in an industry, academic or government setting.

Requirements for the BICB Master’s Degree (M.S.) Program

The BICB graduate program offers the master’s degrees under two different plans: Plan A, which requires a thesis; and Plan B, which substitutes additional coursework and a capstone experience. Each plan has a minimum of 30 credits. The minimum credit requirements for a M.S. Plan A is 20 course credits in the interdisciplinary program and 10 thesis credits (BICB 8777). The minimum credit requirements for a M.S. Plan B is 30 course credits.

Every Master’s graduate student will have an interim advisor assigned when entering the program. The student is expected to decide on a research area by the end of the first year and to choose a Master’s advisor by the end of the first year. The time limit for earning a Master’s degree is five calendar years after initial enrollment in the graduate program. Students who are unable to complete the program within this timeframe may petition for an extension of up to 12 months.

Course Requirements

The BICB program is designed to allow for maximum flexibility. You and your adviser will determine the course work you will need to take to gain competency in your specialty. The required course credits for both plans must include the following required BICB courses.

- BICB 8510 Computation and Biology (2 credits, one semester)
- BICB 8930 Journal Club (1 credit, two semesters)
- BICB 8920 Colloquium (1 credit, one semester)
- BICB 8401 Ethics (1 credit, one semester)
- BICB 8970 Entrepreneurship and Leadership (1 credit, one semester)

The requirements for BICB 8510 may be waived in consultation with the DGS for students with sufficient research experience. However, in the case that certain
course requirements are waived, all M.S. students must fulfill the minimum of 30 graduate credits.

M.S. students are required to gain competency in Core Areas 1, 2, and 3 (total 9 credits) and at least one of Elective Areas 4-13 (at least 3 credits for Plan A, 6 credits for Plan B).

Core areas:
1. Biochemistry, genetics, molecular cell biology and physiology
2. Mathematics, biostatistics and statistics
3. Computer science, informatics, computational biology and system biology

Elective areas:
4. Genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, microbiome
5. Plant science, animal science, veterinary medicine, biomedical science
6. Biophysics, structural biology, chemical biology, protein engineering, spectroscopy
7. Computational chemistry, cheminformatics, medicinal chemistry and drug design
8. Databases, data analytics, data mining, artificial intelligence and machine learning
9. Data management, data modeling, algorithms and optimization
10. Big data analytics, distributed systems, parallel computing, cloud computing
11. Computer vision, imaging analysis, virtual reality, signal processing and neural networks
12. Clinical and translational sciences
13. Health informatics, electronic medical records, and natural language processing

BICB courses not used to satisfy the major credit requirement may be applied as electives.

This program requires a minimum GPA of 3.00 (on a 4.00 scale) for courses included on any official Master’s degree program form. Courses with grades of A, B, C (including C-), and S may be included in the official graduate degree plan, but grades of S are not calculated in the GPA. Students pursuing a Plan A master's degree are required to register for 10 thesis credits (BICB 8777); these registrations are not graded and therefore cannot be used to meet course credit requirements.
There is a limit of one 4-credit or less 4xxx level course counted in the total course credits. At least 2/3 of the total number of course credits included in any degree program of a M.S. graduate students must be taken on an A-F scale.

Transfer credits are allowed. Click here for more information regarding transferring courses from other programs.

Students may choose a Minor and the choice of courses must satisfy the Minor requirements. Graduate credits applied toward a minor field cannot also be applied toward another minor field. Courses that are used to satisfy course requirements in the Core Areas 1-3 of the interdisciplinary program cannot simultaneously be used to satisfy credit requirements for a Minor. A maximum of 6 course credits in the Elective courses may be applied towards a Minor and thus count toward satisfying both the Elective and the Minor requirements.

**Graduate Degree Plan and GPAS**

Graduate education policy requires that every graduate student file a Graduate Degree Plan (GDP) or complete the GPAS audit for each degree they are pursuing. All students admitted Fall 2020 or later must complete the online GPAS audit. Students admitted before Fall 2020 will complete the paper GDP.

**Paper GDP**

The Graduate Degree Plan must be submitted and approved before a student can submit their WPE and is typically completed prior to the student's last semester in which regular coursework is taken. On the graduate degree plan the student must list:

- Complete coursework.
- Projected coursework (courses the student plans to take to complete their degree).
- Transfer coursework as approved by the director of graduate studies and/or your academic advisor.

The Graduate Degree Plan is a list of coursework that you submit to the Graduate School as the basis for your degree. It may not contain all courses and seminars you complete during the course of your degree but must contain all required courses and seminars. List only graduate level courses (one 4000 level course is permitted). At least 12 of the required 31 graduate course credits must be earned while enrolled as a registered University of Minnesota Graduate School student. Graduate Education policy requires that a minimum of 2/3 of the course credits included in the degree plan are taken A/F and that students should maintain an
overall GPA of 3.000 for courses included on the degree plan at the time of degree clearance. You must file your degree program at least one semester prior to taking your preliminary oral exam. The GDP Form is available online here. Once the degree program is approved, any changes must be petitioned to the Graduate School by submitting a Petition Form.

GPAS
The Graduate Planning & Audit System (GPAS) allows graduate and professional students to plan future coursework and view student degree progress. GPAS has two different functions: a planner and the degree progress audit. The planner is used for future coursework students plan to take. This is an optional feature that is not required for BICB students to complete. The degree progress audit automatically tracks all completed courses and applies them to the appropriate requirements. Students should review and make sure all requirements are met before submitting their GPAS.

Once all courses have been completed students must submit their GPAS audit for approval. Once approved students can then proceed with their written and oral preliminary exam. For more information about the GPAS audit and further resources visit OneStop’s GPAS website.

Examining Committee & Exams
The examining committee for M.S. graduate students should be chosen by the end of the first year to allow time for feedback on your thesis work or project. It consists of at least two members from the BICB graduate faculty and, if the student has a Minor, one member from the student’s Minor program. If the student does not have a Minor, all members of the examining committee may be from the BICB graduate faculty, but must represent at least two different budgetary units. The advisor will be the chair of the examining committee. Initiate the online form for assigning members to the master's final exam committee at least one month prior to the final exam.

The student is responsible for initiating, assigning and updating the oral examination committee. This is done electronically. Go to Assign/Update Examining Committee to begin this process. Before the final oral exam is scheduled, you must confirm that your Graduate Degree Plan form has been approved and that you hold active status at the time of the examination. The Master's (Plan A) final exam consists of a public presentation followed by an oral examination, which is not public. The Master's (Plan B) final exam, which is not public in its entirety, consists of a presentation to your committee on your final project followed by an oral examination.
Adding External Members to an Examining Committee

- The graduate student initiates the process by informing the DGS that s/he would like to add an external member to the committee.
- The DGS solicits the CV from the suggested member, and verifies with the student's adviser that the suggested member is appropriate for the committee and approved by the adviser.
- The DGS checks whether the suggested member has the appropriate credentials, which typically is a Ph.D. in a field appropriate to the student's research.
- The DGS circulates the CV among BICB graduate faculty to solicit comments within a fixed period (two weeks). If nobody voices any concerns about the suggested member being a member of an examining committee, the DGS will initiate the process of adding the member to the committee. If serious concerns by other faculty members are voiced, i.e., if faculty have reasons to believe that the academic credentials of the suggested external member are not at the level expected of a member of a BICB examining committee, the DGS will contact the student's adviser to discuss the concerns. If the concerns cannot be resolved through discussions, the DGS will ask the adviser to suggest a different committee member.

Being an external member of an examining committee does not confer any rights other than participating in that committee. i.e., the external member does not become a permanent member of the BICB graduate faculty. Once the student graduates, the external member no longer has a relationship with the program.

Master’s Plan A
The Master’s degree Plan A program includes the writing of a research thesis under the supervision of a BICB graduate faculty. The minimum credit requirements for a M.S. Plan A are 20 course credits in the interdisciplinary program and 10 thesis credits (BICB 8777). Students must have a 3.000 minimum GPA for courses that are included on the degree plan at the time of degree clearance.

Students submitting a Master’s degree program under Plan A must present a pre-thesis seminar to the faculty and graduate students of the program no later than in the middle of their third semester (full-time students) or middle of their third year (part-time students). This pre-thesis seminar must be open to the public. The purpose of the seminar is to invite comments and suggestions on your research plan. The members of the examining committee should be present and
the seminar must be scheduled during normal working hours, preferably during the Colloquium. Your presentation should be about 30-40 minutes to allow for questions.

The [degree completion steps checklist](#) detail the administrative steps that must be completed to be eligible for graduation. The first step is to complete the Graduate Degree Plan at least one semester prior to the anticipated graduation term. Once the Graduate Degree Plan has been approved by the GSSP Office, you will then need to initiate the online form for assigning members to the master’s final exam committee at least one month prior to the final exam date. Students will gain online access to the Graduation Packet from the Graduate School and must submit the Application for Degree Form (included in the Graduation Packet) to One Stop by the first business day of the anticipated month of graduation.

**Final Oral Exam**

After the exam date has been scheduled, the Thesis Reviewer's Report Form will be made available to assigned committee members and must be completed prior to the final examination. Because of the concise sequence of events, the committee must be allocated sufficient time (at least two weeks) to review the thesis and complete the Thesis Reviewer's Report form. Once all members have completed their Thesis Reviewer's Report form, the Final Examination Report Form is automatically sent to the assigned committee chair.

The final examination consists of a thesis defense that is open to the public followed by an oral examination that is closed to the public. You must submit the title of your presentation, abstract, a meeting location, and a Zoom link for remote viewing at least one week prior to the exam to the program assistant. Email the information to [bicb@umn.edu](mailto:bicb@umn.edu), who will announce the presentation to the BICB faculty and students. A majority vote of an examining committee is required to pass the Master’s final examination. After your thesis defense and the final oral examination, submit the signed Final Examination Report form to the Graduate School no later than by the last business day of the anticipated month of graduation. Submit a digital copy of your thesis by the last business day of the anticipated month of graduation. Consult your Graduation Packet for formatting guidelines. The cover page of your thesis must be signed by your advisor(s).

**Master’s Plan B**

The Master’s degree Plan B program requires at least 30 course credits for completion. Students must have a 3.000 minimum GPA for courses that are included on the degree plan at the time of degree clearance. In addition, the Plan B Master’s program includes a capstone experience for which students must
complete one to three written reports or projects, totaling approximately 120 hours of independent work. Suitable projects to satisfy this requirement must be identified by the student in consultation with their advisor and examining committee. Qualifying projects must be approved by the advisor no later than the end of the student’s third semester. Written reports from appropriate coursework can be used to satisfy this requirement.

The degree completion steps checklist detail the administrative steps that must be completed to be eligible for graduation. The first step is to complete the Graduate Degree Plan at least one semester prior to the anticipated graduation term. Once the Graduate Degree Plan has been approved by the GSSP Office, you will then need to initiate the online form for assigning members to the master’s final exam committee at least one month prior to the final exam date. Students will gain online access to the Graduation Packet from the Graduate School and must submit the Application for Degree Form (included in the Graduation Packet) to One Stop by the first business day of the anticipated month of graduation.

**Final Oral Exam**

Students must submit to the examining committee a 12 to 16-page capstone summary report with a maximum 0.75" all around margins, 12 size font, and 1.5 lines spacing, including tables and figures (excluding cover pages and references) for review. In lieu of this report, students may submit a draft or a published manuscript of their capstone project for review. Because of the concise sequence of events, the committee must be allocated sufficient time (at least two weeks) to read and review the capstone report. After the examining committee accepts the report as satisfying the capstone experience, students will be permitted to schedule the final oral exam. A Final Examination Report Form is automatically sent to the assigned committee chair.

The Plan B oral examination is a presentation on the project or report you did for your capstone experience. This is followed by the examination which will include questions from the committee. The Master’s final exam is not public. A majority vote of an examining committee is required to pass the Master’s final examination. After your final oral examination, complete the Final Examination Report form and ensure it is on file with the Graduate School no later than the last business day of the anticipated month of graduation.

**Minor**

If a BICB graduate student pursues a Minor in a different program, courses that are used to satisfy course requirements in the Core Areas cannot simultaneously be used to satisfy credit requirements for a Minor. A maximum of 6 course
credits in the Elective courses may be applied towards a M.S. Graduate Minor and a maximum of 9 course credits in the Elective courses may be applied towards a Ph.D. Graduate Minor, and thus count toward satisfying both the Elective and the Minor requirements.

Graduate students who major in other programs may obtain a Minor in the BICB graduate program. For the doctoral Minor, a minimum of 12 credits must be taken from two of Core Areas 1-3, and one of Elective Areas 4-13. For a Master’s Minor, a minimum of 9 credits must be completed from two of Core Areas 1-3, and one of Elective Areas 4-13. Core BICB courses or core seminars may be included in the total credits required by the doctoral and Master’s minor.

Core and Elective Areas

Core areas:
1. Biochemistry, genetics, molecular cell biology and physiology
2. Mathematics, biostatistics and statistics
3. Computer science, informatics, computational biology and system biology

Elective areas:
4. Genomics, proteomics, metabolomics, microbiome
5. Plant science, animal science, veterinary medicine, biomedical science
6. Biophysics, structural biology, chemical biology, protein engineering, spectroscopy
7. Computational chemistry, cheminformatics, medicinal chemistry and drug design
8. Databases, data analytics, data mining, artificial intelligence and machine learning
9. Data management, data modeling, algorithms and optimization
10. Big data analytics, distributed systems, parallel computing, cloud computing
11. Computer vision, imaging analysis, virtual reality, signal processing and neural networks
12. Clinical and translational sciences
13. Health informatics, electronic medical records, and natural language processing

There is a limit of one 3-credit or less 4xxx level course counted in the total course credits. Graduate credits applied toward a minor field cannot also be
applied toward another minor field. Other restrictions may apply, and the student should consult the DGS of the major program.

**Annual Progress Evaluation**
All students will be reviewed annually. Both MS and PhD students will be asked to complete and submit a self-evaluation form each Spring. For PhD students, faculty advisers will also be asked to provide comments on each student’s progress. PhD candidates who have passed their preliminary exams are required to meet annually with their PhD Committee. PhD candidates should schedule these Committee meetings and will share their self-evaluation reports in advance of the meeting. At the meeting, candidates will provide updates on their progress and set goals and milestones for the following year. The Committee will provide feedback to the candidate. The Committee chair will complete a form confirming that the meeting took place. Based on the information gathered during the annual evaluation process, the BICB DGs or GPC will meet with students as necessary. Students may request a meeting with the BICB DGs or GPC to discuss their annual evaluation at any point.

This evaluation is required for all students every year they are in the program. If students do not complete the annual review, a registration hold will be placed on the student’s account, which will not allow them to register for classes. Failure to enroll in Fall and Spring semester can lead to discontinuation from the program. The hold can be removed after a completed makeup annual evaluation has been submitted.

Below outlines the annual evaluation process:

**1st year PhD Students/all MS students:**

1. Student prepares/updates IDP reflecting progress and activities in last year/goals for short and long term; includes unofficial transcript; shares the updated IDP with their advisor or DGS for MS

2. Schedule meeting with advisor (if an advisor has been chosen) or the DGS
   
   Discussion topics:
   - Review of academic performance (and suggested changes of course)
   - Career goals
   - Identify advisor (for MS capstone, MS thesis, or PhD students if this is not settled)
   - Course planning for upcoming year

**PhD Students (2nd year and above)**
1. Student prepares/updates IDP reflecting progress and activities in last year/goals for short and long term; includes unofficial transcript; shares the updated IDP with their advisor

2. Advisor meeting to review, discuss, and refine IDP

3. Student schedules committee meeting with their PhD committee/shares updated IDP in advance of meeting

4. Meeting structure: (Suggested length: 1 hour)
   Student presents 25 mins about progress + proposed milestones for upcoming year
   Discuss progress and milestones with the committee
   Discuss broader career goals
   Last 10 min of meeting: Advisor leaves, student finishes meeting with the committee alone (this is an opportunity to raise any concerns about the student/advisor relationship or other concerns)

   Committee Chair fills in brief summary report, shares with BICB program staff;
   Committee Chair may suggest DGS to meet with student if there are concerns (e.g. concerns about the advisor/student relationship or student progress)

5. DGSs/GPC review summary report, meet individually with students and advisors where necessary

   Students nearing the final year of their PhD should use their annual committee meeting to clarify specific expectations on research milestones and publications required before their thesis defense. PhD committees may set reasonable publication requirements consistent with their subfield of computational biology, and these should be discussed during the committee meeting.

**BICB Courses**

Courses are divided into core and elective categories. Below is a list of approved courses that fall into the core category, but please note that this list is not exhaustive. If you and your adviser identify a course that is not on the list but is essential for gaining competency in your area of specialty, contact the GPC at bicb@umn.edu to find out which of the Core or Elective areas the course satisfies.

**BICB Required Courses**

   BICB 8510 Computation and Biology (2 credits; 2 repetitions for 4.0 credits)
This course will be taught in modular form over the Fall and Spring semesters and will provide first-year graduate students with an overview of topics in molecular biology and genetics; mathematics, statistics and biostatistics; programming and scripting; data management; and data mining. The modules will be offered based on the needs of each incoming class of BICB graduate students.

BICB 8401 Ethics in Bioinformatics and Computational Biology (1 credit)
This course comprises lectures, case studies and group discussion on topics related to responsible conduct, acceptable practices, ethics and public policies in scientific research. This course is offered during the Fall semester.

BICB 8970 Entrepreneurship and Leadership (1 credit)
This course features invited speakers to discuss the essential leadership and entrepreneurial qualities required for a successful career in industry and academia. This course is offered during the Spring semester.

BICB 8920 BICB Colloquium (1 credit; 3 repetitions totaling up to 3.0 credits)
This is a weekly seminar that features faculty or student speakers that introduces students to current research topics in bioinformatics and computational biology. Ph.D. students must take two semesters of this seminar; M.S. students must take one semester.

BICB 8930 Journal Club (1 credit; up to 3 repetitions totaling up to 3.0 credits)
This seminar will meet weekly for 50 minutes during both fall semester and spring semester. This seminar consists of student research presentations and discussions of journal articles. The seminar is required of 1st and 2nd year Ph.D. graduate students and 1st year M.S. graduate students.

BICB 8932 Proposal Writing Seminar (1 credit)
This seminar is required for all 2nd year Ph.D. graduate students. Its purpose is to teach students how to write proposals and to guide them through the writing of their preliminary written exam. This seminar will be held during the Spring semester.

Other BICB Elective Courses
BICB 8940 Education and Pedagogy (1 credit)
- Offered jointly with Center for Learning Innovation (under development at UMR). Pedagogical approaches based on cognitive science research. Current/past literature on how our understanding of learning has shaped classroom teaching.

BICB 8960 Internship Course (1-6 credits; up to 6 repeats allowed totaling up to 12.0 credits)
● All students are required to complete 120 hours of internships. Students may register for up to 6 credits per semester. Students are not required to register for credit for internships. However, they must provide documentation of completion of internships that are kept on file as outlined in Appendix B.

BICB 8991 Independent Study (1-2 credits; up to 2 repetitions totaling up to 4.0 credits)
● This course may be used by graduate students for reading courses with appropriate faculty or to conduct other independent studies. Ph.D. graduate students may only register for this course prior to passing the preliminary oral exam. M.S. graduate students may register for this course at any time.

BICB 8994 Directed Research (1-3 credits; up to 2 repetitions allowed totaling up to 6.0 credits)
● This course may be used by Ph.D. graduate students to engage in research projects prior to passing the preliminary oral exam. These research projects may lead to thesis research or could be independent of the planned Ph.D. or M.S. thesis research. M.S. graduate students may register for this course at any time.

BICB 8990 Seminar on Current Topics (1 credit; up to 4 repetitions totaling up to 4.0 credits)
● Sections in this seminar will vary depending on the instructor.

Other Program Credits
BICB 8333 FTE: Master’s (1 credit; No Grade Associated)
BICB 8444 FTE: Doctoral (1 credit; No Grade Associated)
BICB 8666 Doctoral Pre-Thesis Credits (1-6 credits; 2 repeats allowed totaling up to 6.0 credits; DGS consent for 3rd/4th registrations; No Grade Associated)
BICB 8777 Master’s Thesis Credits: (1-10 credits; 10 repeats allowed totaling up to 10.0 credits; No Grade Associated)
BICB 8888 Doctoral Thesis Credits: (1-14 credits; 10 repeats allowed totaling up to 24.0 credits; No Grade Associated)

Registration Policies and Procedures
Graduate student registration dates can be found on the One Stop Student Services website. Students are expected to know their registration queue time during the registration period for each semester; this can be found on their MyU homepage or through One Stop. Students are required to know and follow University registration deadlines and register each fall and spring semester to maintain active student status.
Registration

The academic calendar with the important dates and deadlines for each semester are available online. The University has a schedule builder that greatly facilitates finding courses. Many classes fill up quickly, so plan ahead! As a reminder, you need to be registered before the first day of classes to avoid late registration fees. You can change, add, or cancel classes, including changing the grade basis during the first two weeks, but you can only add a class without instructor approval or get a 100% refund for canceling a class during the first seven days.

The BICB program accepts a wide variety of classes allowing each student to customize their degree. Here is a list of the various departments with approved classes. This is not an exhaustive list. Feel free to reach out to bicb@umn.edu for any clarification.

Permission Numbers

To register for any of the BICB courses, you will need a permission number. An email with all registration information will be sent out before each term. If you can’t find the information please email bicb@umn.edu for instructions. For access to courses offered through other departments that require permission numbers, you must contact that department through e-mail to request a permission number. A Google search usually works to find the contact information for different departments at the University but if not you can use this directory.

Thesis Credits

**BICB 8777: M.S. Thesis Credits**
M.S. students who have identified a thesis adviser can take these at any time for the M.S. Plan A degree.

**BICB 8888: Doctoral Thesis Credits**
At least 24 doctoral thesis credits are required for the Ph.D. Please discuss and request permission with your faculty thesis advisor if you wish to take Doctoral Thesis Credits prior to completing your preliminary exams. We encourage “filling up” your credits to the maximum allowed for a full-time student, i.e., 14 credits, each Fall and Spring semesters in your first two years to complete your required 31 course credits and 24 doctoral thesis credits. This is considered early thesis credit registration and we require approval from your PhD advisor before we allow you to register. Have your advisor email bicb@umn.edu with the approval.

UNITE Courses
If you wish to take a UNITE course, complete their website. If you have questions or issues, reach out through the UNITE site (http://www.unite.umn.edu/)

**Special Registration Categories**

To participate as a graduate student at the University and make progress towards your degree, it is required that you maintain active student status. In order to remain active, you must register for courses every fall and spring term. If you do not register for every fall and spring term, your student status is discontinued and you must apply for readmission if you wish to return. You can read more about active status in the leave of absence and reinstatement policy.

As a graduate student, there may be a time when you need to register solely to meet your registration requirements and avoid inactive status. The options are listed below.

**GRAD 999**

GRAD 999 is a zero-credit, zero-tuition registration option intended for graduate students who have completed all coursework and (if applicable) thesis credit requirements, and who must maintain registration to meet the registration requirement. GRAD 999 enrollment serves only to maintain active student status. Students with GRAD 999 enrollment are not eligible for financial aid, and this status cannot be used for student loan deferment. *Students may not hold graduate assistantships while enrolled in GRAD 999.*

While registered for GRAD 999, you can:

- Meet the active status requirement
- File graduate degree plan; petition; application for degree
- Take master's final exam; doctoral prelim written/oral exam; doctoral final exam
- Submit degree clearance materials (e.g., exam forms, thesis)
- Use U Library resources

If you register for GRAD 999, you are not required to pay the Student Services Fee; however, you may elect to do so if you wish to use or support the services covered by the fee.

International students are strongly encouraged to confer with the International Student & Scholar Services (ISSS) office if they are considering GRAD 999 registration to discuss how to maintain legal status and maintain health benefits.
**BICB 8333 FTE: Master’s**
You will only be eligible to register for this option once you have completed your required 30 graduate credits. You must contact Graduate Student Services & Progress (GSSP) to register for this course.

**BICB 8444 FTE: Doctoral**
You will only be eligible to register for this option once you have completed your preliminary written and oral exams. You must contact Graduate Student Services & Progress (GSSP) to register for this course.

**International Students**
If you are an international student, make sure you are registered as a full-time student before classes start and do not fall below six credits if you cancel any classes (i.e., add before you cancel) in the Fall and Spring semesters. There is also a limit on online courses that you can take— at least 3 credits must be taken in a class where there is an instructor in the classroom and you are sitting in that classroom. Thesis and directed research credits are considered as in-class credits. Ask if you have any questions--failure to comply with the rules governing international students may invalidate your international student status and result in deportation.

**Holds on your account that prevent registration**
If you have any Holds on your account that prevent registration and do not know how to remove them, contact the GPC at bicb@umn.edu.

**Graduation**

**Completion Guides**
You can find completion guides for all plans and programs on OneStop’s website. As you approach finishing your degree you should consult the guides to ensure that you have completed all the necessary steps.

**Commencement Ceremonies**
BICB students can participate in the College of Science and Engineering commencement on the Twin Cities campus or the University of Minnesota Rochester commencement in Rochester. Students typically choose based on their “home campus” location but this is not required. More information on either ceremony is linked below. Note that these websites are often not updated until about 6-8 weeks before the end of the semester.

CSE Twin Cities: [https://asecommencement.umn.edu/](https://asecommencement.umn.edu/)
Resources

**IT Help and Software**

The Office of IT has lots of resources for students. There are also free or reduced cost software students can access. If you are a new student IT has a nice guide for how to get started.

**Career Services**

All BICB students can access any and all services offered by the College of Science and Engineering Career Center.

**Potential Funding Sources**

**Graduate School Fellowship Opportunities**

The Graduate School offers a number of fellowships that you can apply to receive. Of particular interest for BICB students is the Doctoral Dissertation Fellowship and the Interdisciplinary Dissertation Fellowship.

**Teaching Assistant Opportunities**

Both the Computer Science and Engineering Department in the College of Science and Engineering and the College of Biological Sciences have TA opportunities BICB students can apply for.

**Work Study Opportunities**

There are also on campus jobs available to all students. All job postings are on the HR website.

**Student Health Benefits**

All students who are 1) admitted to a degree program; and 2) registered for six or more credits per semester; are required by the University of Minnesota to have health plan coverage. Part-time students, or students registering for less than six semester credits, will not be required to provide proof of coverage.

- **Graduate Assistant:** During registration you will be required to verify health coverage by an eligible provider or elect to enroll in the University-sponsored Graduate Assistant Health Plan. If electing this plan, enter the following information for registration purposes:
  - Name of Health Insurance Plan: Graduate Assistant Health Plan
  - Health Plan Telephone Number: (612) 624-0627
  - Member ID Number: (your student ID number)
To verify outside coverage, to enroll in the Graduate Assistant Health Plan, and/or for all other information related to the University-sponsored plan, please refer to the following website: https://shb.umn.edu/health-plans/gahp-home. If enrolling in this plan, please email a copy of your completed enrollment form to Human Resources at UMR (umrhr@r.umn.edu).

- **Full-time Domestic Student**: Students registered for six or more credits per semester are required to verify or elect health coverage at the time of registration. For more information please consult the following website: https://shb.umn.edu/health-plans/shbp-home
- **International Student**: If you are an international student please consult the following webpage for information on how to verify eligible coverage or enroll in the University –sponsored plan: https://shb.umn.edu/students-and-scholars/shbp-eligibility.

**Grievances**
For resolving student academic complaints, please contact the DGS, the Dean of the College of Science and Engineering at UMTC or the Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs and Innovation at UMR (see also Administrative Policy: Addressing Student Academic Complaints, and the Student Conflict Resolution Center).

**Conduct**
See the Board of Regents Policy: Student Conduct Code and related resources (e.g., Office of Community Standards)

**Statement on Sexual Harassment**
As of the 2020-2021 academic year President Joan Gabel started the PIPSM initiative. The Sexual Misconduct Prevention Program (SMPP) aims for long-term culture change to build a University community free from all forms of sexual misconduct. Read President Gabel's endorsement for this work and the strategic priorities for 2020-21. The President's Initiative to Prevent Sexual Misconduct is guided by a charter that outlines its work.

In this effort, seven subcommittees focus on key aspects:

- Employee Systemwide Online Educational Module
- Student Education and Engagement
- Public Health Awareness Campaign
- Evaluation
- Research
Institutional Responsibility and Accountability

Department Development

A Steering Committee and an Advisory Committee guide the work and facilitate communications between the subcommittees and senior leadership.

Policy: [https://policy.umn.edu/hr/sexharassassault](https://policy.umn.edu/hr/sexharassassault)

The University of Minnesota is committed to taking prompt and effective steps intended to end sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, relationship violence, and related retaliation, prevent their recurrence and, as appropriate, remedy their effects. This policy outlines the University’s definitions and procedures related to these types of misconduct. This policy applies to University members, who include:

- University students, whether enrolled full time or part time, for credit or non-credit courses;
- University employees as defined in this policy; and
- third parties who are engaged in any University activity or program, or who are otherwise interacting with the University, including, but not limited to, volunteers, contractors, vendors, visitors, and guests.

This policy applies to acts of sexual harassment, sexual assault, stalking, relationship violence, and related retaliation committed by or against students, employees, and third parties when:

- the conduct occurs on University property;
- the conduct occurs in the context of a University employment or education program or activity, including, but not limited to, University-sponsored academic, athletic, extracurricular, study abroad, research, on-line or internship programs or activities;
- the conduct occurs off University property and outside the context of a University employment or education program or activity, but 1) has a continuing adverse effect on a University education program or activity; or 2) creates a hostile environment for one or more students, employees, or third parties while on University property or in any University employment or education program or activity; or
- the conduct indicates that the respondent may present a danger or threat to the health or safety of University members.

**Reporting and Complaints:**

Online reporting forms can be found on the [EOAA](https://policy.umn.edu/hr/sexharassassault) website. More information and resources on reporting and complaints can be found in the policy linked above.
Required Training
All BICB students, staff and faculty must complete the Preventing Sexual Misconduct, Discrimination and Retaliation education module in the Training Hub. For more information on the training and how to complete it visit the Safe Campus website.

Research
For research involving human subjects and animals, see: Research Involving Human Subjects and Research Involving Animal Subjects

Opportunities for Student Involvement
BICB has a student representative who attends BICB Faculty meetings.
COGS
GAPSA
GopherLink: Graduate Student Groups
Resource to search and connect with all student groups registered with the University. Find which group is right for you.

Statement of Equal Opportunity
The University of Minnesota is committed to the policy that all persons shall have equal access to its programs, facilities, and employment without regard to race, color, creed, religion, national origin, sex, age, marital status, disability, public assistance status, veteran status, or sexual orientation.

Other general information about graduate programs at the University of Minnesota can be found at the web page of the Graduate School. The Graduate School has also issued a Graduate Student Handbook with useful information about policies and procedures that are relevant to all University of Minnesota graduate students.

Previous Handbook Versions
Linked here are the older versions of the handbook. The newest version should be your main reference but depending on the situation you may need to reference an older version.

Student Handbook 2021-2022
Student Handbook 2022-2023